

truth in that. Three or four¹ men of the army had the plague; they could not have lived twenty-four hours; I was about to march; I consulted Desgenettes as to the means of removing them. He said that it must be attended with some risk of infection, and would be useless to them as they were past recovery. I then recommended him to give them a dose of opium rather than leave them to the mercy of the Turks. He answered me, like a very honest man, that it was his business to cure and not to kill; so the men were left to their fate. Perhaps he was right, though I asked for them what I should under similar circumstances have wished my best friends to have done for me. I have often thought since on the morality of this, and have conversed on it with others, and I believe that, after all, it is always better to suffer a man to finish his destiny, be it what it may. I judged so afterwards in the case of Duroc, who, when his bowels were falling out before my eyes, repeatedly cried to me to have him put out of his misery. I said to him, "I pity you, my friend, but there is no help for it — you must sutler on to the end." 'I then asked him about the massacre of the Turks at Jaffa. He answered, 'It is true: I had about 2000 of them shot — you think that rather strong — but I granted them a capitulation at El-Arish, upon condition that they should return to their homes. They broke the condition and threw themselves into Jaffa, where I took them by assault. I could not carry them off as prisoners, for I was in want of bread, and they were by far too dangerous devils to be let go a second time, so that I had no other means but to kill them.'

"This," says Lord Ebrington, "is all that I accurately recollect of this interesting conversation, which lasted from eight till half-past eleven o'clock, as we walked up and down the room. His manner put me quite at my ease almost from the first, and seemed to invite my questions, which he answered upon all subjects without the slightest hesitation, and with a quickness of comprehension and clearness of expression beyond what I ever saw in any other man; nor

¹ Bourrienne, who was with Bonaparte in Egypt, says there were nearly sixty cases of plague in the military

hospital. See *ante*, vol. i. p. 196.